



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MITRE MINCEPIE EXTRAVANGANZA

Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th December 2010 at 7.30pm
TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Ave, South Croydon CR2 9AS
Tickets from 07914 763422 or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

MITRE PLAYERS ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 21st January 2011
7.00pm for 7.45pm at Surrey National Golf Club
Tickets from Anna Warnock, 020 8657 0972

OUR HOUSE

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th February 2011 at 7.30pm
Trinity Concert Hall, Trinity School, Croydon CR9 7AT
Tickets from 07914 763422 or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

WEDDING SINGER

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th July 2011 at 7.30pm
The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Croydon CR9 7AT
and
Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th August 2011
The Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish at 7.30pm
Tickets from 07914 763422 or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

Tickets for all our shows are also available via the secure website:
www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk (credit/debit cards only)

The Mitre Players

Present

Catherine Howard

by Beverley Cross



October 2010

Chairman's Letter

Henry VIII is one of the most infamous of all British monarchs. Best known, probably, for his 6 wives – which led to the split from Rome and the Church of England.

Of his wives, the two most familiar to many people are Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, and tonight the Mitre Players present you with Catherine's story.

Plotting, planning and scheming in the higher echelons of power are by no means a recent phenomenon; they have been around for hundreds, if not thousands of years. The main difference between today and Tudor England is that today, if you are found out you may lose your job; or maybe be given a better one! Four hundred years ago if you were found out you ended up dead.

As the guiding hand behind the production, the Mitres have great pleasure in welcoming Tony Rapps. No stranger to performing with the Mitres, he makes his directorial debut for us with *Catherine Howard*, a play he has loved for years and indeed has appeared in twice.

Megan Harries-Rees - a Mitre since birth – is Catherine and Fraser Macdonald – a Mitre for even longer – is the 'Mandelsonian' Duke of Norfolk. Henry – well, read the cast list! We have particular pleasure in

welcoming two new faces; Jane Kortlandt as a Lady in Waiting, and Simon Long as Thomas Culpeper, who learns to his cost that cuckolding the king is not good for the health.

On behalf of my fellow Mitre Players, I wish you a most enjoyable evening.

Our Christmas show this year will be yet another Mitre first – a *Mitre Mince Pie*. This will be from Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th December at our clubhouse in Sanderstead, the venue for our fabulous Uncle Ebenezer two years ago. I will not begin to describe the *Mince Pie*, save to say that variety is the spice of life and you miss it at your peril – you are guaranteed an unforgettable evening! Box office details later in this programme and keep an eye on local press.

And finally...in February we will be presenting the West End smash hit *Our House*, featuring the music of the Nutty Boys themselves – Madness! *Our House* will be in the Trinity Concert Hall, and if there is not dancing in the aisles and the roof raised then we will have failed!

Have a great evening and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best wishes,

Alan Merricks
Chairman

Variety show featuring
26 Mitre performers!

Comedy sketches
Live music
Magic
Songs

You will not want
to miss this!

Mitre Mincepie Extravaganza



Wednesday 8th
to
Friday 10th
December
at 7.30pm

Tickets limited
Book early to avoid
disappointment

TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Ave, South Croydon, CR2 9AS

Box Office opens 1st November Tickets: £9.00

Cash or Cheques: 07914 763422 or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

Credit/Debit Cards: www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk

Thursday 24th
to
Saturday 26th
February 2011
at 7.30pm
Saturday matinee
at 2.30pm

The Concert Hall
Trinity School
Shirley Park
Croydon
CR9 7AT

Box Office opens 1st November

Tickets: £10.00 (Saturday Matinee £8.00)

Cash or Cheques: 07914 763422 or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

Credit/Debit Cards: www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk

OUR HOUSE NW1

THE MADNESS MUSICAL

The Mitre Players

The Mitre Players

Officials

President Mark Bishop

Past Presidents Chris Tarrant, Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle,

John Bartle, Alan Bishop, Sheila Garnett, Warwick Jones,
Peter Stockwell, Andy Thompson, Martin Tyrrell, Anna Warnock, Colin Warnock

Current Committee

Chairman Alan Merricks

Secretary Di Jones

Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members Ian Brown, Katy Davies
Sue Marr, Charles Marriott, Joe Pepper, Anna Warnock

Additional Contacts

Box Office Hotline 0845 2255799

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock

Membership Secretary Julia Ascott

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4 or 5 productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to remain out of the spotlight,

building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing "Front of House" or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

If you would like more information, please contact Julia Ascott, our Membership Secretary: on 020 8239 1010 or our website: www.mitreplayers.org.uk

The Mitre Players
Present

Catherine Howard

by
Beverley Cross

**The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School,
Shirley Park, Croydon.**

Thursday 21st

to

Saturday 23rd October 2010

*The Mitre Players would like to thank the Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for allowing us to perform **Catherine Howard** in the Mitre Theatre and Robin McKinley, Janet Dean, Mario Sammut, Martin Doolan, Phil Jupp and team for their invaluable help as well as all the school staff for the patience and understanding they have shown whilst we invade the school.*

Please note that smoking is prohibited throughout the school and grounds.

We would also respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden.

*Please remember to switch off all mobile phones. **THANK YOU.***

An amateur production, by permission of Samuel French Ltd.

Ian Brown (Francis Dereham)

Ian loved the television series *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and thought it was a much better way to learn about history than sitting in boring lessons. Anyway, he is very pleased to be playing the slimy Francis Dereham and has been eating vast quantities of cream cakes to prepare for the part. When you have seen the play, you will understand why. Rehearsing three short scenes in this play has been quite relaxing following the completely exhausting *Moby Dick! The Musical* in the summer.

Julie Cumbo (Dowager Duchess of Norfolk)

Although Maggie Smith was desperate to play the role of the Dowager in this production, her commitments with *Downton Abbey* meant that it was impossible and so Julie has happily taken on this coveted and demanding part. She's appeared in many plays at the Miller Centre and a handful here at the Mitre Players, including as the Headmistress in *Daisy Pulls it Off* last year. She lives in Reigate with her cat, Plop.

Julia Gibbs (Lady Rochford)

Julia was last seen playing nasty, spoilt but beautiful schoolgirl, Sybil Burlington in *Daisy Pulls It Off*. What a difference a year makes! Now playing the somewhat meddlesome, middle aged Tudor crone that is Jane Boleyn, Lady Rochford. Obviously this transformation won't be easy calling on years of acting experience and hours in the make up dept! In a spare moment Lady Rochford is definitely worth a quick google - quite interesting.....!

Megan Harries-Rees (Catherine Howard)

Megan has been a member of the Mitre Players for her entire life. She has performed in a number of musicals and plays, one of her favourite roles being Gaia in *Gulliver's Travels*. Megan is delighted to be joining the Mitres' Queen archive in this production and hopes you enjoy the performance! She would like to add

that she is a very sensible, kind hearted young lady with a good head on her shoulders....get it?! Head on her shoulders ! HA! Enjoy the show.

Andy Holton (Will Somers)

Promotion is so sweet! Thirty-six years ago he appeared in *Catherine Howard* as one of the Yeoman where he nearly killed several of the cast with his five-foot halberd. The photographic evidence of the time indicates that his tights wrinkled at the knees. You will see a great change this year. There are still wrinkles but now it is the knees and not the tights!

Mary Holton (Lady in Waiting)

Having played many animals (elephant in *Just So*, Puss-in-Boots in *Millennium Dame* etc) and servants, Mary auditioned for Catherine Howard in the hopes of getting a part with a posh costume.

Saskia Jiggins (Anne Carey)

In the last few years, Saskia has been lucky enough to have been a proud pupil in *Happiest Days*, a sad sister in *My Boy Jack*, a tortured teenager in *Hoy es Fiesta*, a darling daughter in *Little Women* and a spiffing slave-girl in *Ali Baba*. Here the alliterative alternatives reveal her as a contemplative cousin in *Catherine Howard*. Saskia hopes her future roles will continue to offer such variety.

Simon Long (Thomas Culpeper)

Making his debut with The Mitre Players, Simon is delighted to be playing Culpeper in *Catherine Howard*! Having just completed a BTEC in Performing Arts, Simon is currently auditioning for drama schools whilst enjoying a gap year from his studies. He has appeared in many amateur theatre productions, including several with the Miller Centre, and has even played Edna in *Hairspray*! He has a keen fascination with all aspects of theatre, and when not treading the boards, enjoys getting involved in sound & lighting.

Director's Notes

I was first introduced to this play in 1974, it being adapted by Beverley Cross from an episode of the BBC's production *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*.

This particular period of our history has always fascinated me and I am particularly intrigued by the political intrigue and subversion abundant in the royal courts at that time, mirrored of course in our own present parliaments - nothing changes!

This play shows quite starkly the kind of plotting that went on to gain favour with the monarch, who was of course all powerful at that time. Fall out of favour

and you risked losing your head. The play takes place at a time when Henry was past his prime and in poor health, a state he found difficulty in accepting, and for which Catherine seemed to be just the tonic. She eagerly accepted her role of queen with all the power and luxuries it entailed but eventually her 'physical needs' were the cause of her down fall and eventual death.

We have tried to show the kind of devious behaviour which took place at that time in the royal court, and sincerely hope you enjoy an evening of medieval intrigue.

Tony Rapps

Beverley Cross

Beverley Cross was born 13th April 1931, in London. Cross had a varied career as a writer which included children's plays, adult dramas, screenplays, novels, and teleplays. He is also remembered for his lengthy on/off romance with famed actress Dame Maggie Smith, who eventually became his third wife in 1975 and to whom he was devoted. Before attending Oxford University (where he met Smith) Cross served in the Royal Naval Reserve, the British Army, and the Norwegian Merchant Marine. In 1953 he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company but eventually decided against a career in acting so in 1956 he began work with the BBC as a production assistant for children's television drama.

In 1959 his work as a playwright began in earnest when *One More River* opened to much acclaim and was followed by *Strip the Willow* in 1960 featuring Maggie Smith. Meanwhile, his plays for children began appearing on BBC TV, including *The Singing Dolphin* and *The Three*

Cavaliers. Cross then adapted *Half a Sixpence* from H. G. Wells's novel *Kipps* and then later adapted the work for the Tommy Steele film.

In 1964 he directed *Boeing-Boeing* in Australia and a year later he directed *The Platinum Cat* in London. Among his other works are the opera *The Mines of Sulphur*, the musicals *Jorrocks, Victory* and *The Rising of the Moon*, and the play *Happy Birthday*. He also wrote *All the King's Men*. His work as a screenwriter included *Jason and the Argonauts*, *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger*, *Mussolini: The Last Act*, and *Clash of the Titans*. His plays *The Nightwalkers*, *The Dark Pits of War* and *A Bill of Mortality* were all broadcast on the BBC.

His adaptation of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* was performed by The Mitre Players in 1989. His play *The Ghostwriter* was produced in 1996.

He died in London, after treatment for a series of aneurysms on 20th March 1998.

Behind the Scenes

Director
Tony Rapps

Director's Assistant
Di Jones

Construction Manager
Andy Thompson

Costumes
Di Jones

Lighting Designer
Charles Marriott

Sound
James Mcleod

Backstage Crew
Craig Backway
Matt Beal
Alan Bishop
Alison Bottiglia
Alan Collins
Alan Geeson
Mary Holton
Fraser Macdonald
Alan Magrath
Julian Parsons
Dave Price
Charles Thomas
Jill Wilson

Make-up/Wigs
Julia Gibbs

Props
Anna Frost

Photography
Marcus Ascott
Charles Marriott

Programme
Alan Bishop
Anna Warnock

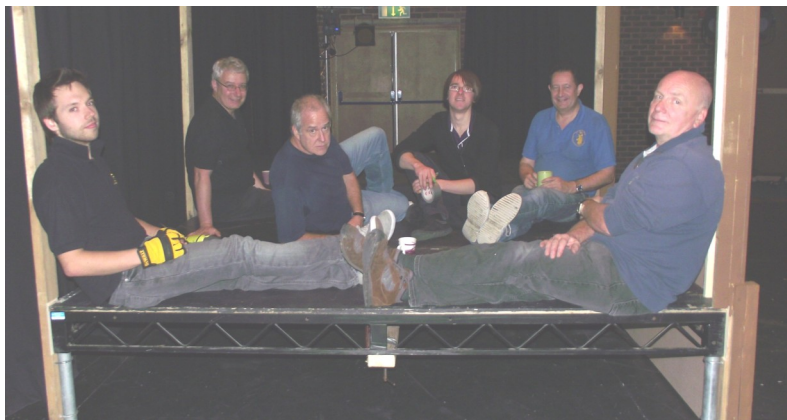
Prompter
Gillian Bartle

Production Manager
Lorraine Price

Publicity
Lesley Bates

Box Office
Gill Frost

**Front of House
And
Refreshments**
Alex Greenslade
Lorraine Price
& Friends of the Mitre Players



Jane Kortlandt (*Lady in Waiting*)

As a newcomer to the Mitres, Jane has been waiting to get involved for some time, and so hopes the experience will be put to good use in this role. In fact, as a believer in method acting, Jane has been putting much effort into waiting over the past few weeks, and is confident now that she has the technique down to a fine art. Let's hope she doesn't make a habit of it, or you may see her wandering aimlessly around the Beckenham area, looking for something or someone to wait upon.

Charles Marriott (*Ambassador/Surgeon*)

Catherine Howard sees Charles in two completely contrasting roles to that of the drunken gardener/sailor he played in *Moby Dick! The Musical*. As Henry VIII's personal Surgeon, he is dismissed in favour of the more gentle bedside manner of Catherine ... and who can blame him. As the Italian Ambassador, he represents the only foreign interest in the play. In both cases, he gets to wear some magnificent costumes. Although a trained actor, Charles is more usually found directing for the Mitres. The December show, *Mitre Mincepie*, will involve Charles co-ordinating the fabulous line-up of singers, actors and dancers taking partno live beheadings!

Fraser Macdonald (*Duke of Norfolk*)

A Mitre Player for some 30 years, Fraser can usually be seen as Pantomime Dame or in some musical extravaganza as, for example, with his portrayal of a demented, lunatic old salt in this year's touring production *Moby Dick! The Musical* at the Minack theatre in August. For once he is returning to his roots in serious drama as he takes on the role of the scheming, Machiavellian, arch politician Norfolk in the historical drama *Catherine Howard*. Peter Mandelson, eat your heart out!

Alan Merricks (*Henry VIII*)

'Henry is fat and cantankerous' it said on the character list so Alan immediately saw the

opportunity to put two of his natural attributes to good use. Playing Henry has been quite an experience, but Alan has been known to take his work home with him and throw whole chicken carcasses and wine glasses over his shoulder into the fireplace after dinner.

Dave Price (*Stanton*)

It's been a while since Dave trod the boards; he's been filling in with directorial and bass playing duties recently but the promise of a codpiece was far, far too tempting. Dave is always happy to appear in a period drama, especially if he gets to do the mean and moody thing, preferably with a weapon of some kind...he's not too fussy what kind! Other sword wielding parts he's enjoyed have been Captain Fitzroy in *The Madness of George III* and the fabulously entitled Captain Carbon de Castel Jaloux in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Stanton is less impressively named but equally impressively attired!

Tony Rapps (*Director*)

Tony is this year celebrating his 50th year in Am-Dram. He started in 1960 with St. John's Dramatic Society, Selsdon, with whom he still appears and of whom he is also chairman. As well as acting with Mitre Players he has over that time acted with CODA, Miller Centre Players, Addington Theatre Group and Parlour Players. Tony has taken many varied roles over the years including twice appearing as Henry VIII in this particular play. He has also directed many plays and pantomimes but freely admits that his first love is acting - as long as he can still remember the lines![]





Ian Brown



Julie Cumbo



Julia Gibbs



Megan Harries-Rees



Andy Holton



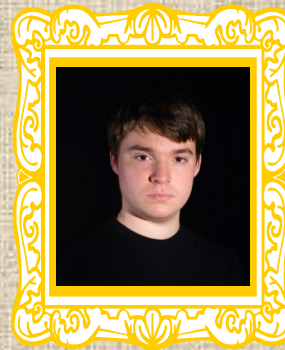
Mary Holton



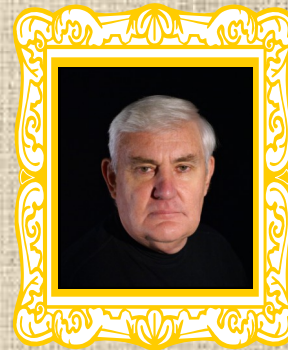
Saskia Jiggins



Jane Kortlandt



Simon Long



Fraser Macdonald



Charles Marriott



Alan Merricks

CATHERINE HOWARD
HENRY VIII
DUKE OF NORFOLK
LADY ROCHFORD
ANNE CAREY
DOWAGER DUCHESS OF NORFOLK
WILL SOMERS
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

Megan Harries-Rees
Alan Merricks
Fraser Macdonald
Julia Gibbs
Saskia Jiggins
Julie Cumbo
Andy Holton
Charles Marriott

FRANCIS DEREHAM
SURGEON
STANTON
THOMAS CULPEPER
LADY IN WAITING 1
LADY IN WAITING 2
YEOMAN OF THE GUARD 1
YEOMAN OF THE GUARD 2

Ian Brown
Charles Marriott
Dave Price
Simon Long
Jane Kortlandt
Mary Holton
John Bartle
Alex Greenslade

The action takes place in Hampton Court and other places during the 1540s. There is one 20 minute interval.